



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health



Swimming Pools Impacted by Smoke and Ash

The following guidelines are recommended for the maintenance of public or community swimming pools impacted by smoke and ash contamination. Close the pool until the following steps have been completed.

1. Clean skimmer baskets of debris.
2. Skim water surface of pool with pool net to remove floating debris.
3. Brush sides and bottom of pool to loosen contaminants.
4. Vacuum pool.
5. Add a clarifying agent to promote filtering of the ash.
6. Backwash and clean filter, discharge waste to sanitary sewer.
7. Check pH and adjust to between 7.2 to 8.0.
8. Check chlorine level and adjust to minimum of 2.0 ppm.
9. Ensure the recirculation system is operating properly by checking filter pressure and or flow meter.
10. Reopen pool to bathers when pH levels are 7.2 to 8.0 and free chlorine is level 2.0 ppm.
11. Due to smoke and ash in the air, these steps may need to be repeated.
12. Alternatively, a swimming pool service company may be contracted to clean the pool. Check for their business license and experience in servicing pools.

Deck Cleaning: Clean the pool deck and dispose of the debris with the rest of the solid waste. Don't hose down the deck to storm drains. You may spray lightly first to minimize dust and ashes from becoming airborne.

Draining Pools: Draining of community/public pools is not recommended. If the pool will be drained contact your local sewer agency for guidance. Discharge to storm drains is not allowed.

Mosquito Breeding: Pools with standing water could breed mosquitoes. Please call the County of San Diego, Vector Control Unit at (858) 694-2888 to have staff come and stock the pool with mosquito eating fish until the power and pool recirculation system is restored.